

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A<sup>20</sup>

1. A multi-media E-mail system for transmitting/receiving a multi-media E-mail including various types of media information and positioning control information indicating how the media information is each temporally and/or spatially positioned, the

5 multi-media E-mail system comprising:

a step of receiving the multi-media E-mail;

a step of restoring an incoming mail composed by a sender of the received multi-media E-mail by positioning each of the media information included in the received multi-media E-mail according to the positioning control information included therein;

a step of storing the media information included in the received multi-media E-mail as received media information;

10 a step of composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail by utilizing said received media information; and

a step of transmitting the composed return mail back to said sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including every media information included in the return mail exclusive of said received media information and the positioning control information indicating how the every media information in the return mail is each temporally and/or spatially positioned.

2. The multi-media E-mail system according to claim 1, wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

Sub A<sup>207</sup>

said received media information is divided, and  
the return mail is composed by using divided media  
5 information obtained by the division, and  
in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an  
alternative to said divided media information, division  
controlling information indicating at where said received media  
information is divided is transmitted in addition to said  
10 multi-media E-mail.

3. The multi-media E-mail system according to claim 1,  
further comprising a step of storing the media information  
included in the multi-media E-mail to be transmitted as  
transmitted media information, wherein

5 in said step of restoring the incoming mail, by positioning  
each media information included in the received multi-media  
E-mail and said transmitted media information according to the  
positioning control information included in the multi-media  
E-mail, the incoming mail is restored.

4. The multi-media E-mail system according to claim 3,  
wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

said received media information is divided, and  
the return mail is composed by using divided media  
5 information obtained by the division,  
in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an

Sub A<sup>27</sup>

alternative to said divided media information, division  
controlling information indicating at where said received media  
information is divided is transmitted in addition to said  
10 multi-media E-mail, and

in said step of restoring the incoming mail,

said transmitted media information is divided  
according to the division controlling information included in the  
received multi-media E-mail, and

15 the incoming mail is restored by using the divided  
media information obtained by the division.

5. A multi-media E-mail device for transmitting/receiving  
a multi-media E-mail including various types of media information  
and positioning control information indicating how the media  
information is each temporally and/or spatially positioned, the  
5 multi-media E-mail device comprising:

a receipt controlling part in which the multi-media E-mail  
is received, and then an incoming mail composed by a sender of  
the received multi-media E-mail is restored by positioning every  
media information included in the received multi-media E-mail  
10 according to the positioning control information included  
therein;

a first inputted information storing part storing the media  
information included in the multi-media E-mail received by said  
receipt controlling part as received media information;

Sub A<sup>20</sup> 7

15 an inputted information editing part composing a return mail for the incoming mail restored by said receipt controlling part by utilizing said received media information; and

a transmission controlling part transmitting the return mail composed by said inputted information editing part back to  
20 said sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including every media information included in the return mail exclusive of said received media information and the positioning control information indicating how the every media information in the return mail is each temporally and/or spatially positioned.

6. The multi-media E-mail device according to claim 5, wherein when a return mail is composed, said inputted information editing part

divides said received media information, and  
5 composes the return mail by using divided media information obtained by the division, and

said transmission controlling part transmits, as an alternative to said divided media information, division controlling information indicating at where said received media  
10 information is divided in addition to said multi-media E-mail.

7. The multi-media E-mail device according to claim 5, further comprising a second inputted information storing part storing the media information included in the multi-media E-mail

Sub A<sup>207</sup>

to be transmitted by said transmission controlling part as  
5 transmitted media information, wherein

said receipt controlling part restores the incoming mail  
by positioning each media information included in the received  
multi-media E-mail and said transmitted media information  
according to the positioning control information included in the  
10 multi-media E-mail.

8. The multi-media E-mail device according to claim 7,  
wherein when a return mail is composed, said inputted information  
editing part

divides said received media information, and  
5 composes the return mail by using divided media  
information obtained by the division,

said transmission controlling part transmits, as an  
alternative to said divided media information, division  
controlling information indicating at where said received media  
10 information is divided in addition to said multi-media E-mail,  
and

when a return mail is restored, said receipt controlling  
part

divides said transmitted media information according  
15 to the division controlling information included in the received  
multi-media E-mail, and

restores the incoming mail by using the divided media

Sub A<sup>W</sup> 7

information obtained by the division.

9. A recording medium on which a program, to be run in a computer device, for transmitting/receiving a multi-media E-mail including various types of media information and positioning control information indicating how the media information is each temporally and/or spatially positioned is recorded, the program for realizing an operational environment on said computer device comprising:

a step of receiving the multi-media E-mail;

10 a step of restoring an incoming mail composed by a sender of the received multi-media E-mail by positioning each of the media information included in the received multi-media E-mail according to the positioning control information included therein;

15 a step of storing the media information included in the received multi-media E-mail as received media information;

a step of composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail by utilizing said received media information; and

20 a step of transmitting the composed return mail back to said sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including every media information included in the return mail exclusive of said received media information and the positioning control information indicating how the every media information in the return mail is each temporally and/or spatially positioned.

Sub A<sup>20</sup> 7

10. The recording medium according to claim 9, wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

said received media information is divided, and

the return mail is composed by using divided media

5 information obtained by the division, and

in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an alternative to said divided media information, division controlling information indicating at where said received media information is divided is transmitted in addition to said  
10 multi-media E-mail.

11. The recording medium according to claim 9, the program for realizing the operational environment on the computer device further comprising a step of storing the media information included in the multi-media E-mail to be transmitted as  
5 transmitted media information, wherein

in said step of restoring said incoming mail, by positioning each media information included in the received multi-media E-mail and said transmitted media information according to the positioning control information included in the multi-media  
10 E-mail, the incoming mail is restored.

12. The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

said received media information is divided, and

Sub A<sup>20</sup> 7

the return mail is composed by using divided media  
5 information obtained by the division,

in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an  
alternative to said divided media information, division  
controlling information indicating at where said received media  
information is divided is transmitted in addition to said  
10 multi-media E-mail, and

in said step of restoring the incoming mail,

said transmitted media information is divided  
according to the division controlling information included in the  
received multi-media E-mail, and

15 the incoming mail is restored by using the divided  
media information obtained by the division.

13. A method of supplying a program, to be run in a computer  
device, for transmitting/receiving a multi-media E-mail  
including various types of media information and positioning  
control information indicating how the media information is each  
5 temporally and/or spatially positioned to the computer device  
through a network, the method comprising:

a step of receiving the multi-media E-mail;

a step of restoring an incoming mail composed by a sender  
of the received multi-media E-mail by positioning each of the  
10 media information included in the received multi-media E-mail  
according to the positioning control information included



therein;

a step of storing the media information included in the received multi-media E-mail as received media information;

15 a step of composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail by utilizing said received media information; and

a step of transmitting the composed return mail back to said sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including every media information included in the return mail exclusive of said received media information and the positioning control information indicating how the every media information in the return mail is each temporally and/or spatially positioned.

14. The method of supplying a program according to claim 13, wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

said received media information is divided, and

5 the return mail is composed by using divided media information obtained by the division, and

in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an alternative to said divided media information, division controlling information indicating at where said received media information is divided is transmitted in addition to said multi-media E-mail.

15. The method of supplying a program according to claim 13, further comprising a step of storing the media information

included in the multi-media E-mail to be transmitted as transmitted media information, wherein

5 in said step of restoring the incoming mail, by positioning each media information included in the received multi-media E-mail and said transmitted media information according to the positioning control information included in the multi-media E-mail, the incoming mail is restored.

16. The method of supplying a program according to claim 15, wherein in said step of composing the return mail,

said received media information is divided, and  
the return mail is composed by using divided media  
5 information obtained by the division,

in said step of transmitting the return mail, as an alternative to said divided media information, division controlling information indicating at where said received media information is divided is transmitted in addition to said  
10 multi-media E-mail, and

in said step of restoring the incoming mail,  
said transmitted media information is divided according to the division controlling information included in the received multi-media E-mail, and

15 the incoming mail is restored by using the divided media information obtained by the division.